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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: God of silence, God of peace, in whom we live, move and have our very being, help this day the Members of the House of Representatives and those who assist them in their work. In the midst of their busy day, enable them to find a moment of stillness within and know that You are God and present to guide them.

May all the people of this great Nation be people of faith as well and come to seek Your face, O Lord. At this moment, people across this vast country join us in praying for the leaders in government they have elected. Praying together can unite us in works of justice and securing peace in this world.

With You we can accomplish great and glorious deeds because we pray and act in Your holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BURNS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will receive ten 1-minute speeches on each side.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE ECONOMY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, good morning. I have got some good news. Perhaps a lot of the Members do not know about it. There has been a CBO update. The economy now seems poised for a more sustained recovery with CBO estimating growth of nearly 4 percent in the year 2004.

Because of that growth, moreover, the recent surge in Federal budget deficits will peak in the year 2004. That is right. If growth continues, even at the CBO estimated 3.3 percent a year from the year 2005 to 2008, Federal revenues will begin to rise again and deficits will fall through the rest of the decade just as they always do amid prosperity.

What this tells us, Mr. Speaker, is that President Bush's decision to use fiscal policy, tax cuts, to promote growth has been the right priority, and it seems to be paying off now in accelerating business purchases. This is crucial to restoring vibrant growth because the economy has to survive and has had so much trouble with the burst in the stock market. This is also one of the explicit goals of President Bush's dividend and marginal income tax rate cut proposals.

Mr. Speaker, this is good news. No guarantee but good news for today.

HONORING EAST BOYNTON BEACH LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have good news also.

I rise to offer the East Boynton Beach, Florida Little League team, our new American National Little League champion, for the congratulations and admiration of this body. These fine

young men spent months practicing and playing hard, while never losing sight of the principles of honesty and fair play.

Their skill and determination paid off when they triumphed over all other American teams to represent our country in the Little League World Series.

Although they did not win the world title, they captured the attention and affection of Americans young and old. People across the country followed them through their games in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and cheered each victory. Their achievements this year will be remembered for a long time.

While I fully expect this team of very talented players to contend for the world title again next year, it is important to laud them now for the heights they attained.

I am sure we all have the greatest respect for these fine young men. They are excellent role models for children and for all of us. As their Representative in Congress, I am proud of the role they have played as ambassadors to other young people across the country and around the world.

SALUTING EAST BOYNTON BEACH LITTLE LEAGUERS

(Mr. SHAW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) in bringing attention to the House of Representatives the phenomenal achievements of a group of young men from Florida's 22nd Congressional District as well as his district.

I am speaking of the boys from East Boynton Beach Little League team; Michael, Richie, Cody, Jordan, Patrick, R.J., Matt, Ricky, Benny, Devon, and Andrew, who are also known as this year's United States Little League world champions.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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